

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A memory device includes a first, directly executable memory with boot code, a second memory with operating system code, and a common connector. When the device is connected to a computer that lacks a BIOS of its own, the computer boots from the first memory and downloads the operating system from the second memory. A user of a system that includes a plurality of the memory devices and a computer that lacks a BIOS selects an operating system by reversibly connecting the appropriate memory device to the computer. The memory device also serves as a security key for a computer that lacks a BIOS.